

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Page 2, starting at line , please amend as follows:

Especially advantageously, the covering device is made from a flexible material which is deployed or inflated in the mask interior under the influence of pressure. The air permeability of the air-permeable material and the area of the portion defined thereby are selected such that a sufficient outflow of gas from the mask interior is assured.

Page 6, paragraph starting at line 19, please amend as follows:

The covering device 2 is embodied such that in cooperation with the sealing lip device 1, it defines a mask interior. The mask interior is in communication with a respiratory gas conduit unit 3, for delivering respiratory gas to the mask interior defined by the covering device and communicating with the nostril and/or the oral opening of the mask user. The covering device is embodied in at least some portions as an air-permeable woven structure. The respiratory gas conduit unit 3 forms a connection stub for coupling a respiratory gas hose. The respiratory mask arrangement shown serves to deliver respiratory gas at a pressure level that is above the ambient pressure. Under the influence of the pressure, the covering device 2 is deployed in the mask interior between its peripheral attachment points, that is, between the sealing lip device 2 and the respiratory gas conduit unit 3.

Page 6, paragraph starting at line 23, please amend as follows:

The respiratory masks described can be secured by means of headband arrangements, e.g., headband 34 connecting to headgear connectors 35, as illustrated in Fig. 8b. These headband arrangements can be used to evacuate respiratory gas, because they may have air-permeable zones which communicate with the mask interior via a conduit.